

To: Renewable Advisory Board

From: Janice McClanaghan,
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Subject: Update

The following is the monthly update for the Renewable Energy Fund:

1. Solar on Schools RFP – Chris Warfel is developing the RFP to select an electrical contractor (and solar subcontractor, most likely) to install 2 kW PV systems at 4 schools in FY2003. We are currently evaluating the data monitoring equipment of a firm called Heliotronics. The data monitoring system provides weather and system output information that would be used for teaching purposes. For more information on the data monitoring system, go to <http://www.heliotronics.com/news.html>
2. CESA Public Education Program – An evaluation committee made up of four project consultants (two of whom are managing the overall project, and two who are guiding the ad agency selection process) and representatives from CESA and the five funding states have made a joint recommendation as to which agency should be used. A recommendation memo will be coming out next week.
3. PP&L/GreenUp Service - National Grid has filed with the PUC to offer its GreenUp program in Rhode Island, which is already underway in Massachusetts. Deadline for written public comments is 9/5, and a public hearing is scheduled for 9/12. Narragansett has said that they hope to be offering the program in RI in mid-October. Attached is the “ballot” for GreenUp in Massachusetts.

A quick study of the ballot for MA will reveal that Community Energy and Mass Energy (PP&L’s partner) are offering a similarly priced product. You will note that the wind content of the Community Energy product is much greater than the Mass Energy product, 50% versus 20%. Mass Energy and PP&L are claiming their 20% wind product actually is a higher value product than the Community Energy wind product, because the MA Energy/PP&L wind is from turbines located in MA, whereas Community Energy is getting its wind from NY. Unfortunately, this is not apparent from the ballot, and this is an area of concern.

A further area of concern that has been expressed by PP&L is that there is no emissions and/or generation source disclosure about current sources from Narragansett Electric. An emissions and/or generation source disclosure would, in PP&L’s opinion, provide consumers with information regarding the environmental impacts of their current electricity sources which could motivate them to participate in GreenUp.

It has been suggested by PP&L that the Fund or Advisory Board members may want to intercede in the regulatory approval process for GreenUp with respect to the issues outlined above. Written public comments are due on 9/5 and a hearing is scheduled for 9/12.

4. Think Energy – The final portion of the Think Energy contract that was approved by the previous Collaborative in 2002 is a workshop for college and university faculty, administration and students that was initially planned for only two (which two was undetermined at the time) schools. The workshop has been planned for this Fall. Think Energy would now like to include all seven colleges and universities in RI at an increased cost of \$6,590. (The original proposal for just the two institutions cost \$9,440; to do it for all will cost a total of \$16,030.) The increased effort is associated with getting the word out and additional effort and materials during the half-day workshop.
5. Website – The draft of the website is being reviewed for implementation.